



# ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

## Article 7 – Heritage Grants

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is amending its Heritage Grant rules following a state-mandated five-year review. This review identified areas where the rules were lacking in effectiveness, understandability, and usefulness. The Department is now preparing to propose rulemaking to enact changes that will address these shortcomings. Therefore, **this document does not represent the rulemaking in its final form.** The general public will have the opportunity to review the rulemaking in its final form before it is approved by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the Governor’s Regulatory Review Council.

The Department proposes to amend the rules as follows:

### **R12-4-701. Heritage Grant Definitions**

- Amend the definition for “eligible applicant” to include non-governmental nonprofit organizations. This will allow these groups to apply for Heritage Grants.

### **R12-4-702. General Provisions**

- Allow a permanent employee’s time spent on a project to be used as in-kind match, but only for the project that the employee worked on. Subsection (J).

### **R12-4-704. Urban Wildlife and Urban Wildlife Habitat Grants**

- The communities of Green Valley, Flowing Wells, and Sun City West are now incorporated and do not need to be specified as eligible communities. These areas are still eligible for Heritage Grants, but specific references to them will be deleted. Subsection (B)(2).

### **R12-4-705. Public Access Grants**

- Amend the rule to clarify that public access grants are intended for improving access to recreational opportunities that are related to wildlife, not general outdoor opportunities like hiking or bike trails, which can be funded through other sources. Subsection (C).

### **R12-4-707. Schoolyard Habitat Grants**

- Amend the rule to require that a schoolyard habitat grant develop awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the state’s wildlife and environment; use Arizona wildlife as its focus; and have an impact on Arizona schools and students. Subsection (B)(1)(3) and (6).

### **R12-4-711. Grant-in-Aid Participant Agreements**

- Replace “violation of state law” with “material breach of contract” as grounds for recovering grant funds. Violations of state law include violations that are not relevant or reflect on the participant’s qualifications or abilities to complete a project. Subsection (2).

### **R12-4-712. Reporting and Record Requirements**

- Amend the rule to ensure that post-completion reporting requirements are satisfied.

Subsection (C).

- Amend the rule to give the Department flexibility in performing audits on grant participants if requirements are not met. Subsection (D).

If you have any questions regarding the proposed rulemaking, please contact Carlos Ramirez, Department Rules Analyst, at (602) 789-3288 ext. 6 or by e-mail at [rulemaking@azgfd.gov](mailto:rulemaking@azgfd.gov) for additional information. Thank you for your interest in the rulemaking process.